

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 7-12, 17-21 and 27-32 remain pending.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the interview on April 7, 2004. Examiner and Applicant discussed the Gunnerson reference and section 112, first paragraph rejection.

Claims 7-12, 17-21 and 27-32 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. Applicant has amended the claims by changing the term "physically" to "thermally" as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the 112, first paragraph rejection.

Claims 7, 8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Gunnerson. Claims 9, 11, 21, 28 and 30 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Gunnerson, in view of Hung et al., and Villaume. Claims 17-19, 27 and 31 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Gunnerson in view of Hung. Claims 12, 20, 29 and 32 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Gunnerson, in view of Hung and Feldman, Jr. et al. Applicant respectfully traverses.

As discussed in the Examiner interview, the prior art fails to teach or suggest a non-branched heat pipe. Applicant's amended independent claims all teach a non-branched heat pipe.

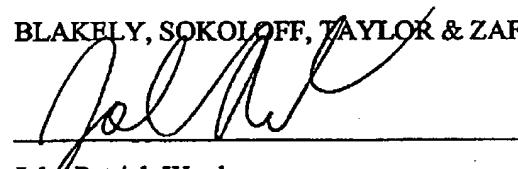
In summary, for the reasons noted above, Claims 7-12, 17-21 and 27-32 are distinguished over the cited art, overcome Examiner's 112, first paragraph rejection and are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome. Favorable action is respectfully solicited. Allowance of the Claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional charges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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John Patrick Ward
Reg. No. 40,216

12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1030
(408) 720-8300